

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BASIC PLAN

FOR

EVACUATION

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The undersigned, constituting all of the members of the California Advisory Evacuation Committee, herewith submit to the Governor and the California War Council, the following basic plan for Evacuation for the State of California, and recommend its adoption:

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Chairman

/s/ C. H. PURCELL
Charles H. Purcell, Director of Public Works, Vice Chairman

/s/ RICHARD R. WHITAKER
Richard R. Whitaker, War Council Evacuation and Transportation Officer, Northern Sector, Executive Secretary

/s/ GORDON H. GARLAND
Gordon Garland, Director of Motor Vehicles

/s/ RAY W. HAYS
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CALIFORNIA STATE EVACUATION CONTROL PLAN

Section I

ESTIMATE OF SITUATION

1. Mission

a. To provide a plan for the care, movement and rehabilitation in an orderly, controlled manner, of those citizens of the State of California having suffered an actual or potential catastrophe, natural or war caused; also

b. To provide a means for the coordination of local evacuation plans by the Office of the State Director of Civilian Defense.

2. Scope

This plan will be operative over a wide range of conditions, varying from extending assistance to an affected area by augmenting their supplies from other regions for a short period of time, to the movement, care and rehabilitation of large numbers of the population covering an extensive period of time.

It is recognized the problems of each sector and each region are different and that each region is subject to a different degree of hazard. Therefore it is contemplated that local plans within the various regions will vary somewhat in detail. Emphasis will be placed on those phases of the evacuation plan which, in the opinion of the State Director of Civilian Protection, are most applicable to the particular region.

It is not contemplated that all elements of this plan will be activated for incidents involving a limited number of persons, which would be normally well within the ability of counties and cities to handle. However, any incident which requires assistance from outside counties or the movement of considerable numbers of persons from one county to another because of such disaster or incident will require the activation of all elements of this plan or that portion of the elements necessary for the successful accomplishment of the particular task.

Throughout this plan, wherever the term natural disaster is used, it shall not be considered as limiting the action of the American Red Cross in its disaster relief procedure, or in any way modifying its disaster relief policies. The American Red Cross, by virtue of its Congressional Charter, is responsible for rendering assistance to families or individuals affected by natural disasters, and they will exercise such supervision and control as is required by that responsibility, completely financing their own operations.

It is also recognized that the status obtaining in the war effort at this time makes the mass evacuation of large segments of the population beyond the State boundaries improbable, therefore, this plan will emphasize phases designed to serve incidents more nearly probable of occurring.

For the reason stated above, and because the nearest area where large groups of evacuees can be adequately sustained is in the Mississippi Basin, and such a movement would require coordination of plans on a national scale, details involving such an endeavor will not be considered herein.

3. Evacuation Phases

a. Because the type of catastrophe anticipated varies so widely in magnitude and under such different degrees of hazard, local planning must provide for the following phases and State planning must coordinate these plans for each phase, so that the most efficient handling of every situation is accomplished.

(1) First Phase: Forced evacuation of persons from affected areas; time is important.

(a) Intra-city Dispersal: In which the situation involves limited areas affecting relatively few persons who can be temporarily cared for in local Assembly Centers and then resettled within the community, in which they have been resident.

(b) Intra-county Movement: In which conditions are such within the community affected that it is impossible to resettle unhomed persons therein, but who can be resettled within adjacent communities and areas within the county.

(c) Inter-county Movement: In which the incident results in damage to a widespread area affecting a large segment of the population requiring movement of relatively large numbers of persons beyond the geographical limits of the county affected by the incident.

It is possible that the transition between the first, second and third contingencies may occur quickly, caused by the same incident. Time is essential in each of the three contingencies.

(2) Second Phase: Ordered evacuation of priority groups; time relatively unimportant.

When an incident is anticipated or after it has been experienced, it may become advisable to order the removal of certain priority groups. Under this condition, since time is not the controlling factor, the evacuation can be made in a relatively orderly manner, in that orders may be prepared and issued in advance and all necessary facilities can be made available before the movement is undertaken.